

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DRC-01 /156 W

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R 121619Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7882

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB,PFOR, SOCI,ILO, XG

SUBJ: NORDIC TRADE UNION LEADERS MEETING WITH SHELEPIN IN HELSINKI

REF: A.HELSEINKI 2612, B. STOCKHOLM 3589

SUMMARY. AT RECENT MEETING IN HELSINKI, NORDIC AND SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS DISCUSSED (1) PROPOSED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA AND (2) SCANDINAVIAN-SOVIET TRADE UNION RELATIONS. PRIMARY PURPOSE APPARENTLY WAS TO MOLLIFY DANISH AND SWEDISH FEDERATION CHAIRMEN AND GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR GENEVA MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. PEER CARLSEN, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF DANISH LO, GAVE LABATT RUN-DOWN ON SEPTEMBER 28-29 MEETING IN HELSINKI. MEETING WAS CALLED BY NILO HAMALAINEN, FINNISH SAK CHAIRMEN, AT REQUEST OF ALEKSANDR SHELEPIN, HEAD OF SOVIET LABOR ORGANIZATION (AUCCTU). IT WAS ARRANGED ON SHORT NOTICE BY SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA AND HELD AT RECREATION AND SAUNA CENTER TWENTY MILES OUTSIDE HELSINKI. ATTENDING WERE THOMAS NIELSEN AND PEER CARLSEN FROM DANISH LO, GUNNAR NILSSON AND TORBJORN CARLSSON FROM SWEDISH LO, LENNART BODSTROM FROM SWEDISH TOC TOR ASPENGREN AND TORWALD STOLTENBERG FROM NORWEGIAN LO, HAMALAINEN, TAPIOLA, ARVO HAUTALA AND ERKKI SUNNILA FROM SAK, JOHN SVENNINGSSEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION (NTUF) TOGETHER WITH SHELEPIN, PIMENOV AND TWO OTHER AUCCTU REPRESENTATIVES.

ACCORDING TO CARLSEN, SOVIET GROUP CAME TO FINLAND SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS MEETING. HE ADDED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN HELSINKI WAS REPORTEDLY ANGERED AT NOT HAVING ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF SHELEPIN'S VISIT, AND LATTER FELT OBLIGED TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING MEETING TO REPAIR OVERSIGHT.

2. CARLSEN STATED THAT ONLY TWO TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED DURING TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR FORMAL TALKS EVENING SEPT 28: (A) MODALITIES OF THE PROPOSED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING IN GENEVA DURING ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE, AND (B) RELATIONS BETWEEN AUCCTU AND THE NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION WHICH WAS FORMED LAST YEAR. SHELEPINLED OFF WITH THIRTY-MINUTE "MASTERFUL PRESENTATION" OF PROBLEMS TO BE FACED IN ARRANGING GENEVA MEETING. POINTS MENTIONED BY SHELEPIN AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED WERE: (A) WHO SHOULD BE CONVENING CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITY--SOVIET GROUP SUGGESTED THAT CHAIRMEN OF ALL EUROPEAN CENTRAL TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS COULD JOINTLY ISSUE INVITATION. TORBJORN CARLSSON COUNTERED WITH PROPOSAL THAT EUROPEAN WORKER REPRESENTATIVES ON ILO GOVERNING BODY SHOULD ISSUE INVITATIO: (B) TIMING AND ARRANGEMENTS--IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN AS THE APARTHEID CONFERENCE HELD LAST JUNE 16 DURING ILO CONFERENCE; (C) PARTICIPATION OF CHRISTIAN (WCL) FEDERATIONS AND COMMUNIST FEDERATIONS IN ITALY (CGIL)

AND FRANCE (CGT). CARLSEN SAID THAT SHELEPIN'S PRESENTATION TURNED HEAVILY ON THIS POINT BUT THAT PARTICIPANTS HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS IT IN DETAIL. IT WAS, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY AGREED THAT PARTICIPATION ISSUE WOULD BE INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM IF CONFERENCE WAS NOT HELD UNDER ILO AUSPICES. IF HELD UNDER ILO AUSPICES, QUESTION COULD BE LEFT OPEN. ALL FEDERATIONS PARTICIPATING IN ILO REGIONAL MEETING WOULD E FREE TO ATTEND; (D) AGENDA--SHELEPIN WAS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO TALK ON ANY OR ALL SUBJECTS, YOUTH, WOMEN, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT BEING MENTIONED. ASPENGREN, WHO HAD EARLIER GONE ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT, TOLD OTHER SKEPTICAL NTUF REPRESENTATIVES THAT HIS PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS "NATURAL" ENVIRONMENT TOPIC WAS BASED ON TWO DESIDERATA--TO AVOID PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WERE BLOCKING ALL EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS, AND SECONDLY, TO SMOKE OUT REAL REASON FOR SOVIET DESIRE FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE.

3. ONLY POINT DISCUSSED UNDER SECOND TOPIC, ACCORDING TO CARLSEN, WAS POSSIBILITY OF OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOVIET UNION BY NTUF DELEGATION. SOVIETS APPARENTLY DESIRED VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE, SINCE CARLSEN COMMENTED TO LABATT THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A VISIT UNTIL AFTER JANUARY MEETING IN GENEVA. NTUF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSED VISIT AT ITS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN OCTOBER 15.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO CRLSEN THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED. TRADITIONAL RESERVATION WAS INVOKED BY COMMON AGREEMENT THAT ALL DISCUSSION WAS "INFORMAL" AND "NON-BINDING" ON ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED. IT WAS APPARENT THAT THOMAS NIELSEN AND GUNNAR NILSSON WERE BEING EXPOSED TO SOVIET CHARM TRATMENT; HAMALAINEN AND ASPENGREN, WHO WERE ALREADY IN FAVOR OF EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, WERE ALMOST IGNORED. IT IS PROBABLE, CONSEQUENTLY, THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO MOLLIFY CONFIDENTIAL

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NIELSEN AND NILSSON, WHOSE FEATHERS HAD BEEN RUFFLED BY ARNE GEIJER'S HAVING REPRESENTED NORDIC COUNTRIES AT EARLIER MEETING OF EAST-WEST LABOR LEADERS IN VIENNA. AS RESULT OF THAT SLIGHT, THOMAS NIELSEN, AT LEAST, HAW THUS FAR BEEN COOL TO PROPOSED GENEVA TRADE UNION CONFERENCE.

5. IT IS VERY PROBABLE, AS LOCAL PRESS CLAIMS, THAT THOMAS NIELSEN TRIED TO KEEP MEETING FROM BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BUT HIS ATTEMPT WAS FRUSTRATED BY LAK IN MOSCOW, WHICH WAS PICKED UP BY DANISH WIERE SERVICE CORRESPONDENT THERE.

6. NIELSEN HAS SENT FULL REPORT REGARDING MEETING TO OTTO KERSTEN, ICFTU, VIC FEATHER, ETUC, HEINZ VETTER, DGB, AND LEN MURRAY, BRITISH TUC.
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